

**REMARKS**

By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-13, 16-18 and 20-21 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Accordingly, claims 4, 10, 14-15 and 19 are pending in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

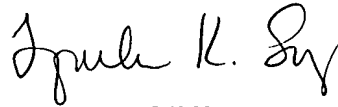
The Office Action rejects claims 1, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,751,385 to Heinze. This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1, 20 and 21.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 4, 10, 14-15 and 19 are allowed. As only allowed claims remain pending, it is respectfully submitted that this application in condition for allowance.

Applicant notes that acknowledgement of consideration of the references filed with an Information Disclosure Statement on September 11, 2002, has not been received by Applicant's representative. Applicant hereby requests that the Examiner initial the PTO-1449 to indicate that the references have been considered, and return it to the Applicant's representative at the address set forth below. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the PTO-1449 is attached, along with a copy of the PTO date-stamped receipt.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Jaquelin K. Spong  
Registration No. 52,241

JAO:JKS/tbh

Attachments:

Notice of Appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and  
Interferences and Petition for Extension of Time  
Copy of September 11, 2002 PTO Date Stamp Receipt  
Copy of September 11, 2002 PTO-1449

Date: November 18, 2004

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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